

Dockets Management Branch
Food and Drug Administration
Department of Health and Human Services
12420 Parklawn Drive Room 1-23
Rockville, MD 20857

7127 '99 MAR 31 P2:02

March 27, 1999

RE: Docket #98P-0203/CP

I support United Poultry Concerns and the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights in their quest to ban the forced molting of millions of chickens. The December 15, 1998 report in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* stated that "Eggs are the predominant source of *Salmonella* Enteritidis infections in humans" and that many of the egg-associated outbreaks in the U.S. have been "traced back to the farm of origin and have documentation that infected hens were the source of the outbreak." The article concluded that "control of *Salmonella* Enteritidis will require preventing infections in egg-laying and broiler chickens."

I strongly urge you to require the U.S. egg industry to eliminate forced molting. Forced molting is horribly cruel to the precious, wonderful birds who do feel pain. It causes great suffering. It destroys the hens' immune systems; it is a major cause of *Salmonella* Enteritidis in the hens and their eggs.

Please end their suffering.



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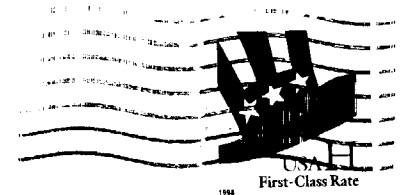
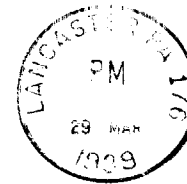
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associated humane societies



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